

REMARKS

Claims 54, 69, 79, and 89 are currently amended to clarify the present invention, without acquiescence in cited basis for rejection or prejudice to pursue in a related application. Specifically, some of the claimed limitations of the previously presented claim 89 are added to the method claim 54 and corresponding product and system claims. No new matter has been added.

§ 102 REJECTIONS

Claims 54-96 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dieckman, D., “DISCOE: Distributed Design & Analysis to Preserve Intellectual Property.” (Hereinafter Dieckman). Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants note that “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” MPEP 2131.

I. For claim 54, the Office Action cites to pp. 58-59 of Dieckman and concludes that the figures and passages therein disclose all the claimed limitations of claim 54. Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants note that “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” MPEP 2131.

Claim 54 is currently amended to recite at least the claimed limitation of “ranking the one or more integrated circuit design resources” that was originally recited in claim 89.

Dieckman discloses the provision of catalogs and libraries from multiple vendors and placing such information online for use or access by others. Although Dieckman may have impliedly suggested that such parts or services are to be displayed to the users in some random order, Dieckman is, however, absolutely silent on **ranking** such parts or services provided online.

Furthermore, the Office Action concludes, yet the Applicants find it unclear, that a suppliers’ association to the components in the online catalogs would affect the ranking of the suppliers and how a component’s association with a given supplier would do the same to the

component in the online catalogs. As the Applicants presented immediately above, Dieckman merely disclose the online availability of the parts or services, and such parts and services may be displayed in some random order, but Dieckman is absolutely silent on **ranking** such parts or services. Moreover, the association between a part or service and its respective supplier merely created a link between such a part or service and its supplier, yet it is hardly conceivable that such association would have any bearing on **ranking** the services provided. Therefore, Dieckman does not disclose at least the aforementioned limitations of claim 54. Claim 54 is currently amended to clarify the present invention.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that Dieckman does not disclose, teach, or suggest the above claimed limitations of claim 54, and thus may not be used to preclude the patentability of claim 54. Similarly, the currently amended claims 69 and 79 represent the computer product and system claims reciting similar limitations as does claim 54 and are thus allowable over Dieckman for at least the foregoing reasons. Consequently, claims 54, 69, 79, their respective dependent claims, and thus all the pending claims are allowable over Dieckman for at least the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

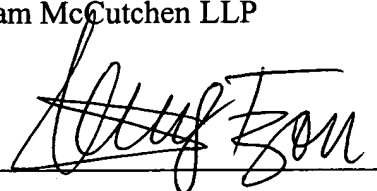
On the basis of the above remarks, all claims are believed to be allowable. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,
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